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Keys to Total Health

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#36 - Final Fate of the Wicked

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Keys to Total Health

PRODUCED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH EDUCATION, SCHOOL OF HEALTH

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Final Fate of the Wicked

Part of the Apostasy of the early church included the teaching of Purgatory and an eternally burning hell. The Second Angel's Message, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication" (Revelation 14:8), was designed to correct these false teachings of apostate Christianity, and to reaffirm the true gospel that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) Those who accept God's gift live forever; but those who reject it, "perish."

To understand the final fate of the wicked, we must understand the Bible millennium. The Bible millennium is probably the least understood doctrine of the Christian faith. More distortions are current concerning the millennium than any other teaching of Scripture. Some of the views held are:

1. That the millennium is 1000 years of world betterment;
2. That everybody is on earth during the millennium;
3. That the righteous rule over the wicked during the millennium;
4. That everybody is in heaven;
5. That some of the righteous are in heaven (144,000), the rest of the righteous are left on earth during the millennial period;
6. That the wicked have a second chance during the millennium.

A friend of mine, Marion Gift, once belonged to a church that teaches a second chance during the millennium. He met a Seventh-day Adventist in a barbershop and asked him when he was planning to join his church. The Adventist replied that Marion should become an Adventist, because if Marion's church was right, and Adventists were wrong, he

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would have a second chance anyway. But if Adventists were right, and Marion's church was wrong, there would be no second chance. After careful study, Marion did become an Adventist. The word "millennium", meaning "thousand years", does not occur in the Bible, but the expression "thousand years" is used six times in Revelation 20. What is the thousand year period the Bible talks about? The easiest way to understand the millennium is to study the events which occur at its beginning, during the millennial period, and at its close.

Beginning of the 1000 Years

Events at the beginning of the millennium.

1. Resurrection of the righteous. "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." (Revelation 20:6) According to Paul the resurrection of the righteous or "holy" occurs at the second advent of Jesus Christ. So,
2. Jesus returns with all His holy angels. "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first." (1 Thessalonians 4:16) "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." (Matthew 24:30,31)
3. The wicked are slain. "And then shall that wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming." "When the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from

heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Thessalonians 2:8; 1:7,8)

4. The living righteous are translated. "Behold, I shew you a mystery: we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. At the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." (1 Corinthians 15:51,52) "When he shall appear, we shall be like Him" (1 John 3:2) for He "shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body." (Philippians 3:21)

5. Satan is bound with "chains of darkness." "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season." (Revelation 20:1-3) What does the chain look like which binds Satan? The Apostle Peter tells us, "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment." (2 Peter 2:4) And Jude says, "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." "Wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever." (Jude 6,13)

Five events usher in the millennial period of 1000 years:

1. The resurrection of the righteous dead,
2. the second advent of Jesus Christ with all His holy angels,
3. the translation of the righteous living,
4. the destruction of the wicked by the "brightness of His coming", and
5. the binding of Satan with "chains of darkness."

During the Millennium

Events during the millennium.

1. The saints are in heaven doing a work of judgment. "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them;...and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years." (Revelation 20:4, see also verse 5) Speaking of this time, Paul wrote: "Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? And if the world shall be judged by you are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels?" (1 Corinthians 6:2,3)
2. The wicked are dead. "But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished." (Revelation 20:5)

3. The earth is desolate with no living person upon the face of the earth. "I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the Lord and by His fierce anger. For thus hath the Lord said, the whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end. For this shall the earth mourn, and the heavens above be black: because I have spoken it, I have purposed it, and will not repent, neither will I turn back from it." (Jeremiah 4:23-28) This description of the millenium doesn't sound too hopeful for those who are counting on a second chance. But other descriptions are even more convincing that there is no second chance.

"And the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground." (Jeremiah 25:33) "Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof...The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: For the Lord hath spoken this word." (Isaiah 24:1,3) No mention of a second chance here. You better make sure of heaven now.

4. Satan is bound for the duration of the millennial period. He is not loosed until "the thousand years should be fulfilled."

Close of the Millennium

Events at the close of the millennium.

1. Jesus Christ returns a third time with the Holy City and saints. "And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." "And they (the wicked) went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them." (Revelation 21:2; 20:9) When Jesus returns the third time, "Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment upon all." (Jude 14,15)
2. The wicked are resurrected. Jesus said, "The hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life: and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." (John 5:28,29) So then there are two resurrections: first, the resurrection of life; second, the resurrection of damnation. If the "blessed and holy" are in the first resurrection (Revelation 20:6) then the second resurrection must be the resurrection of

1000 Years

Beginning

1. First resurrection
2. Second Advent
3. Wicked Slain
4. Righteous translated
5. Satan bound

During

1. Saints in heaven
2. Wicked dead
3. Earth desolate
4. Satan bound

Close

1. Second resurrection
 2. Holy city comes
 3. Satan loosed
 4. Wicked destroyed
 5. Eternity.
-

damnation. And if "the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished" (Revelation 20:5), the second resurrection must then be at the close of the millennial period.

3. Satan is loosed. "And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them." (Revelation 20:7-9)

4. The wicked are eternally destroyed. "And the sea gave up the dead which were in it: and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." (Revelation 20:13-15) Malachi describes this event thus: "For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, it shall leave them neither root nor branch...and ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts." (Malachi 4:1,3) Zechariah depicts this dreadful event thus: "Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth." (Zechariah 14:12) Or, as Obadiah states, "They shall be as though they had not been." (Obadiah 16) The fire that comes "down from God out of heaven devoured them." (Revelation 20:9)

5. The righteous will then spend eternity upon the earth made new. "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea...And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful." (Revelation 21:1-5) Again God promises, "And the former shall not be remembered, nor come to mind." (Isaiah 65:17)

I'm homesick for heaven
Seems I cannot wait,
Yearning to enter Zion's pearly gate
There's never a heart ache
Never a care
I long for my home over there.

In 1948 my grandfather Hubbard attended a series of Bible classes in Prineville, Oregon. He was of Mormon background, but as he attended night by night conviction gripped his heart and he took his stand for truth. Two weeks later, just before his baptism, he was stricken with a heart attack while mowing the lawn, and never recovered. He had settled it with God. He had taken his stand for truth and I want to see him again when loved ones are reunited in God's kingdom. I never saw my grandmother Barton that I remember of, for she died when I was only two and a half. But she too had placed her faith fully on the side of truth,

and I hope to see her one day in glory. How is it with you? Do you have this confidence, this hope? Can I look forward to meeting you there?

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all of these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless." (2 Peter 3:10-14) The wicked will not burn for eternity. They will be destroyed in the lake of fire and brimstone. Only those who have made their peace with God will live forever. "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." (Matthew 5:5) May you be in that number, when the saints go marching in.

**An God shall wipe
away all tears from
their eyes; and there
shall be no more death,
neither sorrow, nor
crying, neither shall
there be any more
pain; for the former
things are passed
away.**

FINAL FATE OF THE WICKED

X

Write your current age and today's date at the left end of the time line below. At the right end, write your estimated age at death and the year.

This line represents your remaining years alive on this planet.

Along this line, write the important things you would like to accomplish before you die.

Assume the "X" near the center of the line represents Christ's second coming. As you look over your life plans, what would you change?

As you look back over the variety of teachings concerning the millennium, which do you choose to believe? On what do you base your decision?

What impact does this have on your life? On your view of God?

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____